



STATE SENATOR
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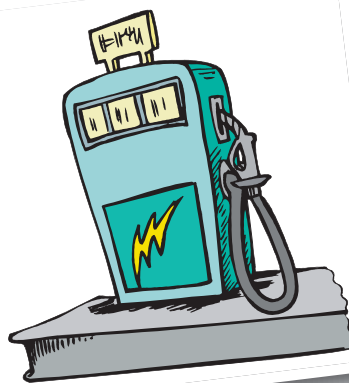


INFO & NEWS

from the

Indiana Senate

Money-Saving Tips: Conserve Gasoline



Over the past several months, Hoosiers have seen gas prices rise substantially, putting a real strain on budgets.

I have compiled a list of gas saving tips that will help reduce the amount of gas you use.

If you need more information on other gasoline resources, visit the attorney general's website at www.indianaconsumer.com

Drive Sensibly: Speeding, rapid acceleration and braking can lower your gasoline mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent around town.

Observe the Speed Limit: Each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like paying an additional 10 cents per gallon for gasoline.

Avoid Excessive Idling: Idling gets zero miles per gallon, and cars with larger engines generally waste more gas at idle.

Use Cruise Control: Cruise control on the highway helps you maintain a constant speed and will save you gasoline.

Use Overdrive Gears: Using overdrive gearing slows your car's engine speeds, which saves gasoline and reduces engine wear.

Check & Replace Air Filters: Replacing a clogged air filter can improve your car's gas mileage by as much as 10 percent.

Keep Tires Properly Inflated: Keeping your tires inflated to the proper pressures can improve your gas mileage by around 3 percent.

Use Recommended Grade of Motor Oil: Using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil can improve your gas mileage by 1 to 2 percent.



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Serving District 19 in Adams, Allen,
Blackford, Grant and Wells Counties



↑ Senator Ford (top row, eighth from left) poses with other members of the 2006 Henry Toll Fellowship program in Lexington, Ky. Senator Ford was chosen as one of 40 elite government leaders from around the country to complete the program, which is sponsored by the Council of State Governments. Fellows discussed and learned about present and emerging problems facing state governments at the conference.

Did You Know...?

... the average property tax bill went down this year?

... on June 30, 2006, the state officially overcame a \$600 million deficit and closed its books for the fiscal year with a balanced budget for the first time in a decade?

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WWW.IN.GOV/S19

Job Creation Legislation Proves Successful

— More jobs for Hoosiers are on the way —

Although the last two legislative sessions have been filled with substantial changes to the way Indiana does business, a priority in the Senate has been job creation. Although government actions cannot create jobs overnight, Indiana is beginning to see results just one year after the major economic development laws of 2005 were implemented.

In 2005, the General Assembly sped up and streamlined the creation of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), created tax breaks for research and development, passed a shovel-ready site development plan and expanded existing tax credits. The result: 85,000 more Hoosiers are working than in January 2005 and unemployment is at a low 4.9 percent.

More jobs are on the way. Recent job announcements include:

• **Honda announcing a \$550 million plant that will employ 2,000 people in Greensburg (the plant will have capacity for 4,000 employees)**

• **American Commercial Lines agreeing to create 1,100 jobs in Jeffersonville**

• **Federal Express announcing a \$200 million expansion creating 800 new jobs in Indianapolis**

• **Rolls Royce committing to bring 600 aerospace jobs to Indianapolis**

• **Pfizer deciding to create 450 jobs in Terre Haute**

• **American General Financial Services expanding its corporate headquarters to create 150 new jobs in Evansville**

• **Arbonne International opening a 400-employee distribution center in Greenwood.**

• **Nestle selecting Anderson for a 300-job facility**

• **Sallie Mae announcing 700 new jobs in Muncie**

Many other announcements have occurred in the past 18 months, many more are expected in the future, and I am committed to continuing to create a job-friendly environment here in Indiana.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

2005 Budget Brightens Indiana's Fiscal Future

In state government, June 30 is New Year's Eve. It's the day Indiana closes the books on the fiscal year and checks the balance in its bank account. For years, the state of Indiana has had little to look forward to on June 30, but this year was different.

Thanks to a budget passed by the General Assembly and signed by Governor Mitch Daniels in 2005, **Indiana was in the black for the first time in more than a decade on July 1**, the first day of the new fiscal year.

When the state began discussing the current budget in 2005, few believed Indiana could erase a \$600 million deficit in the foreseeable future. The General Assembly, however, was able to reduce government spending while still

providing funding increases to education and child services, and giving Hoosier homeowners some badly needed property tax relief. The result: Governor Daniels was able to balance the books earlier than expected, making July 1, 2006, a truly happy New Year for Hoosiers.

Couple the good budget news with a string of job announcements and low unemployment rates, and you'll find that Indiana's economic future, which was bleak at best 12 months ago, is now looking much better.



Indiana: A Biofuels Leader

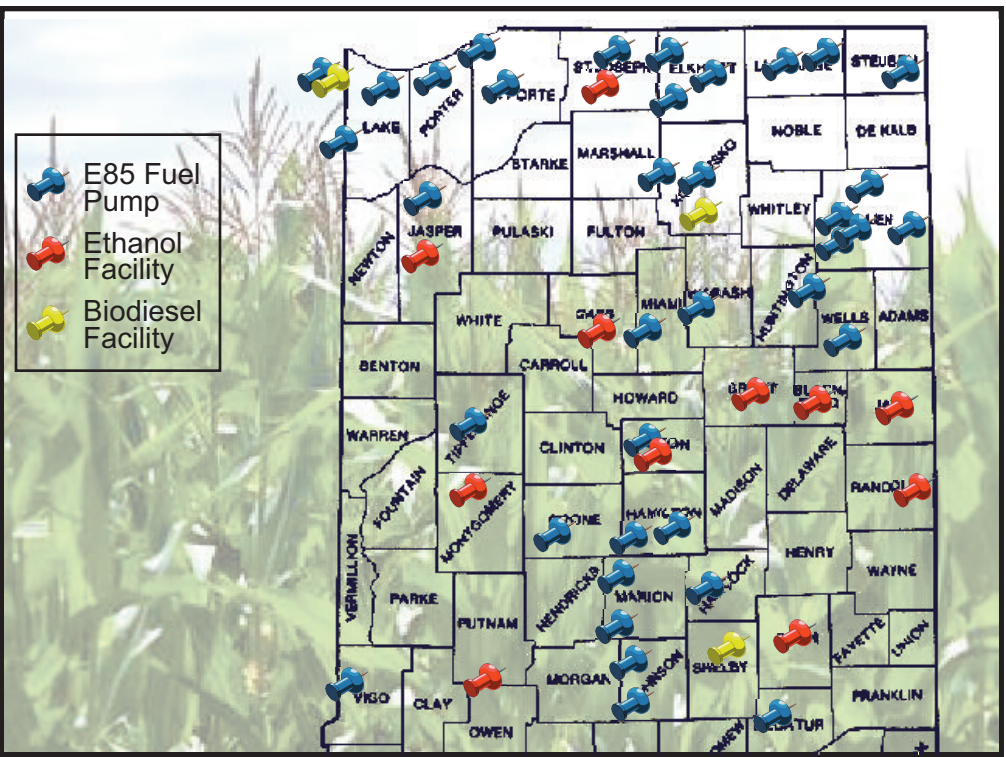
The General Assembly has passed several alternative fuel incentives in recent legislative sessions that have placed Indiana at the top of the biofuels industry. Ethanol and biodiesel burn cleaner, reduce the state's dependence on foreign sources of energy and increase economic opportunities for our state.

Ethanol and biodiesel production have a very positive impact on Indiana farmers. Indiana is the fifth largest state for corn production and fourth largest in soybeans. These are the two key dynamics associated with ethanol/biodiesel production.

Currently, Indiana sends almost 50 percent of corn and soybean productions out of state with no values added, which is the least profitable form of sale for farmers. It is estimated that farmers contracting with ethanol or biodiesel plants will gain an incremental 15 cents to 20 cents per bushel.

Indiana has 15 ethanol plants announced or under construction that will produce a combined 840 million gallons of ethanol each year. The new ethanol and biodiesel plants will put an estimated \$17.5 million into Hoosier farmers' pockets while investing more than \$1.27 billion in capital expenses.

Indiana also boasts dozens of new fueling



A look at the northern two-thirds of Indiana shows how prevalent biofuels have become in our state. The four ethanol plants in or near Senate District 19 will provide dozens of jobs for Hoosier workers.

stations. There are more than 50 biodiesel pumps and 40 E-85 pumps across the state. With this amazing progress in such a short time,

I am very encouraged that these proposals can take us even further. I am very proud that Indiana is a national leader in alternative fuels.

FOCUS SHIFTS TO EDUCATION

General Assembly Expects to Debate Funding, Kindergarten in 2007

In 2005, the General Assembly made an important change to the way our K-12 schools are funded. We instituted a new formula, which other states are now trying to emulate, that allows a school's appropriations to rise and fall in proportion to enrollment.

In other words, dollars now follow the child rather than being arbitrarily given to corporations. This is a smart way to fund schools that served as a jumping-off point to improving Indiana's school system.

This year, we passed legislation that makes it easier for schools to save money by allowing more flexibility in the way they make purchases. The money that is saved can be redirected into textbooks, technology, school buses, and other needs of the school or class-

rooms. Currently, only 61% of school operating budgets goes directly toward instruction and learning.

In 2007, I expect to see many more school issues brought forth. The most visible of those is full-day kindergarten. Most states now fully or partially fund all-day kindergarten (FDK). Experts agree that the additional hours of learning FDK offers puts children further ahead when they enter first grade. That allows elementary teachers to spend less time playing catch-up and more time introducing new subject matter.

FDK has been a long time coming in Indiana, but only because the funds have not been available. Funding FDK is estimated to cost around \$140 million. The budget deficit of

years past has prevented the legislature from offering funding, but thanks to smart spending in the 2005 budget, some believe there is enough cash available to fund FDK.

Other education issues that I expect to see include performance-based pay for teachers. Indiana is currently the only state in the nation forbidden from using student performance for teacher evaluations. Performance-based pay could serve as an incentive for teachers to better prepare their students.

Issues such as school choice, school board elections, accountability in higher education, and increased emphasis on Core 40 might also appear in 2007. I look forward to these debates and will continue to cast my votes with the best interest of students at heart.